

and any intervening claims. Claims 15-16, 18-21, and 26-27 are allowed. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is included herewith with International Publication No. WO 99/41007, which has an effective filing date of February 11, 1998.

Applicant submits that claims 1-2 and 4-6 are fully patentable and respectfully requests entry of the amendment and advancement of the application to allowance in light of the enclosed Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 by Dr. Harold "Skip" Garner. The notebook pages attached in Exhibit A of the Declaration demonstrates an invention date prior to the effective date of the United States filing date of the application cited in the action in support of the rejection.

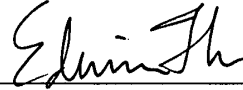
Furthermore, the notebook pages in Exhibit A also antedate the effective filing date of the WO 99/41007 application, February 11, 1998. The invention disclosed and claimed in the present application was used to produce a mask pattern on a substrate on the date even therewith, which is on or before February 11, 1998 (WO 99/41007) and February 23, 1998 (WO 99/42813), which is a date earlier than the effective dates of the references. Therefore, rejected claims 1-2 and 4-6 are allowable as are claims 7-8 and 13-14, objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. All pending claims are therefore allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

An action on the merits of all of the claims (1, 2, 4-8, 13-16 and 18-27) and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if he or she has any questions or suggested amendments to the claims. No fees are believed due for this Response. If this is not correct,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee required to Deposit Account 07-0153.

Respectfully submitted,
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